Study on Conservation and Succession of Village Landscape of *Sasabuki*,

A case of Kamiseya area, Miyadu City, Kyoto Prefecture

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1. Introduction

To preserve *satoyama* landscape, we should understand how the landscape has been maintained in the livelihood of its local residents. Today, a lot of studies have been made on the changes between the inhabitants and *satoyama* landscape from social or cultural perspectives. For example, there are studies on the processes which relate to the formation of the village landscape, and on land-use change. In particular, traditional village landscapes such as thatched, are very important elements when considering the relationship between people and natural resources, because it embodies local history, tradition, and culture. The objective of this study is to find a way in which the factors relating to the succession of the village landscape of *Sasabuki* (thatched roof with bamboo, *Sasa tectorius*), can be determined, by understanding the processes of change occurring within its landscape, the causes of the decreasing number of *Sasabuki* houses, and the practical difficulties in maintaining them.

2. Research site and Method

As a research site, I selected Kamiseya, Miyadu City, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. *Sasabuki* village landscapes, which are difficult to find in Japan, can be seen in Kamiseya. Almost 60% of the houses in Kamiseya are tin-roofed over bamboo. The lasting rate of these houses is quite high. First, in order to understand the processes of change of the village landscape and the causes of the decreasing number of *Sasabuki* houses, I analyzed documents, literature, pictures, and topographic troops concerning Kamiseya and I interviewed local residents, asking them how they maintained and managed *Sasabuki* roofs, and the reasons why they gave up *Sasabuki*, and their feelings for such roofs. Then, I selected 5 other cases of thatched houses (*Sasabuki* houses near Kamiseya) and a thatched village (Kita area, Miyama Town, Kyoto Prefecture). Thatched roofs still remain in these areas. I analyzed the reasons for retaining thatched houses and the problems associated with maintaining them by studying documents and interviewing local residents. Additionally, I took the bamboo-cutting samples in order to estimate the density of bamboo and the labor necessary for the cutting and collecting the materials.

3. Results and Discussion

In Kamiseya, management of *Sasabuki* houses was previously supported by *Temagashi* (a system of mutual assistance). The changing process of the village landscape is divided into 4 parts, according to the increase and decrease of *Sasabuki* and the changes in social conditions. From 1960 to 1970, *Sasabuki* houses dramatically decreased. The causes were a lack of labor due to rapid depopulation and aging, and a reduction of bamboo resources in both quantity and quality, because *Kayaba* (places suitable for bamboo growth, such as after cutting fuel wood) had narrowed and had been replaced by artificial forests. I estimated main resources and labor requirements in order to repair half of a *Sasabuki* roof common size in Kamiseya. These resources and requirements were 1000 bundles of bamboo (about 1ha in calculated area), 40 reapers (25 bundles per reaper). Of those surveyed, the householder's personal attachment to *Sasabuki* as well as the existence of craftsmen and bamboo-reapers close to them have allowed for the maintenance of *Sasabuki*. In the case of Miyama Town, conservation activities which were carried out by local residents in order to preserve the thatched village were connected with support from the government, and as a result, the succession of the village landscape has brought local-activation. While learning from these cases, it is significant to devise a system which manages and utilizes *Sasabuki* in order to allow the succession of *Sasabuki* village landscape.

Fig.1：Factors of diminution in the number of *Sasabuki*